

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01980 251151Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 /012 W
-----251156Z 100230 /17
P 250925Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2378

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1980

FOR NEA/ARN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SY, US
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 052568

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR STEVE:

STEVE SHALOM AND BERT CHABOT LEFT DAMASCUS THIS MORNING AFTER A VISIT OF 12 DAYS. I HAD TWO LONG MEETINGS WITH THEM DURING THEIR VISIT. THEY HAD A WIDE VARIETY OF CONTACTS BOTH IN DAMASCUS AND ALEPPO WHILE STEVE WENT ON ALONE TO VISIT THE COMMUNITY IN QAMISHLI. THEY INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE THE COMMUNITIES' PRIMARY CONTACTS IN SYRIA. JUDGING BY WHAT THEY TOLD ME AT THE END OF THEIR VISIT, THEIR GOVERNMENT CONTACTS WERE REMARKABLY OPEN AND DIRECT IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION OF THE SYRIAN JEWS, PARTICULARLY THE UNMARRIED WOMEN.

THEY WILL CONTACT YOU IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IN MY OPINION, THEY BROUGHT THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF
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PERSONALITY AND BACKGROUND TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION THEY HAD UNDERTAKEN. MY ONLY COMPLAINT, AS I TOLD THEM, WAS THAT IT HAD TAKEN THEM TWO YEARS TO GET HERE AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S INITIAL INVITATION EXTENDED THROUGH YOU TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IN AMERICA TO RETURN FOR A VISIT.

THEY PLAN TO DRAW UP A REPORT OF THEIR VISIT TO SYRIA AND WILL SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE VISIT. FROM THEIR COMMENTS TO ME, I BELIEVE IT IS FAIR TO STATE FIRST OF ALL THAT THEY LEFT HERE WITH A SENSE OF GREAT PERSONAL SATISFACTION AT HAVING REESTABLISHED CONTACTS, PARTICULARLY IN QAMISHLI AND ALEPPO, WHICH HAVE BEEN CUT OVER THE PAST GENERATION AND MORE. THEY LEFT ALSO WITH A SENSE THAT POLITICALLY THINGS WERE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AS FAR AS THE SITUATION OF THE UNMARRIED JEWISH WOMEN ARE CONCERNED. WE AGREED THERE MUST BE A CLOSE COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN SIDE INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY TO ASSURE SUCCESS.

THANK YOU FOR PUTTING US IN TOUCH. I EXPECT TO BE IN WASHINGTON SOMETIME NEXT MONTH AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THAT TIME. SINCERELY, RICHARD W. MURPHY.

END TEXT.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, LEGISLATIVE MAIL, VISITS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, SY, US, (SOLARZ, STEPHEN J)
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